

CLAIMS

1. A method of transporting a message from a sending application to a receiving application, across a messaging landscape in a collaborative network, the method comprising:

defining a message to include a structured message header, wherein the structured message header is defined in accordance with a protocol, the structured message header comprises information related to at least one component from a set of components defined by the protocol, and the protocol defines the structured header to comprise information related to:

a processing mode for the message, and
security for components of the message;
sending the message according to the protocol, from the sending application; and
receiving, at the receiving application, the message.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

defining the message to include a message body, wherein the message body is defined in accordance with the protocol, the message body comprises at least one component from a second set of components defined by the protocol, and the protocol defines the second set of components to comprise:

a fault message component representing an error occurring at a messaging peer that generated the error.

3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the fault message is defined to represent at least one error from a set of errors and the protocol defines the set of errors to comprise:

errors processing a message;
errors parsing a message; and
errors rendering a message.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the security for components of the message is defined to comprise:

information related to a signature of the message; and
information related to a signature of a payload of the message, if the message includes the payload.

5. A method of transporting a message from a sending application to a receiving application, across a messaging landscape in a collaborative network, the method comprising:

defining a message to include version information, wherein the version information indicates a protocol used to define the message;
sending the message according to the protocol; and
receiving, at a messaging component in the messaging landscape, the message, wherein the messaging component is operative to process the message based on the version information included in the message.

6. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the version information includes a major version and a minor version.

7. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the messaging component is operative to process the message if the major version is less than or equal to a major version for which the messaging component is configured.

8. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the messaging component is operative to process the message regardless of the minor version of the message and the messaging component is operative to optimally process the message if the minor version of the message is less than or equal to a minor version for which the messaging component is configured.

9. A method of transporting a message from a sending application to a receiving application, across a messaging landscape in a collaborative network, the method comprising:

defining a message to include addressing information, wherein the addressing information is defined in accordance with a protocol and the protocol defines

addressing information to include party information for the sending application and the receiving application, and

the party information to include identification of a party that is a business party or an agency that is defined by a scheme;

sending the message, from the sending application, according to the protocol; and receiving, at the receiving application, the message.

10. A method of transporting a message from a sending application to a receiving application, across a messaging landscape in a collaborative network, the method comprising:

defining a message according to a class of messages, wherein the class of messages is one of a plurality of classes of messages that are defined by a protocol;

sending the message, from the sending application, according to the protocol; and receiving, at the receiving application, the message.

11. A method of transporting a message from a sending application to a receiving application, across a messaging landscape in a collaborative network, the method comprising:

receiving a message, from the sending application, at a first component of the collaborative network;

in response to the first component successfully receiving the message, the first component sending a transport level acknowledgement to the sending application;

the first component modifying the message to include the first component on a hop-list in the message;

the first component causing the message to be sent to the receiving application;

in response to receiving an acknowledgement message, from a second component, indicating that the message has been received by the receiving application, the first component sending a transport level acknowledgement to the second component.

12. A method in accordance with the method of claim 11, wherein causing the message to be sent to the receiving application comprises:

the first component sending the message to one of one or more components in the collaborative network, wherein each component is operative to:

send a transport level acknowledgement, in response to successfully receiving the message;

cause the message to be sent to the receiving application;

include the component on the hop-list in the message, by modifying the message;

if the component sends the message to the receiving application,

generate the acknowledgement message, and

send the acknowledgement message; and

send a transport level acknowledgement in response to successfully receiving the acknowledgement message.